REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4 and 7, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,835,144 to Matsumura, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Matsumura").

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Matsumura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,784,494 to Strongin, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Strongin").

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Matsumura in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,971,888 to Ching, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ching")

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1, now recites, *inter alia*:

> "...receiving a frame end signal that is synchronized with end of frame data and is indicative of the end of a number of frames..." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Matsumura relates to coding and decoding moving-picture signals and using self-synchronization variable-length codes.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Matsumura that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Matsumura fails to disclose or suggest receiving a frame end signal that is synchronized with end of frame data and is indicative of the end of a number of frames, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants note that the Office Action relies upon column 9, lines 35-50 and column 10, lines 50-59 of Matsumura to disclose two features in an anticipatory rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the same disclosure in Matsumura does not disclose both, "means for receiving a frame end signal which is synchronized with end of frame data and is indicative of the end of each of a number of frames" and "end detecting means for detecting the end of a respective frame based on the frame end signal", as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

For reason similar to those above, independent claims 4 and 7 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicants submit Strongin does not provide the disclosure missing in Matsumura.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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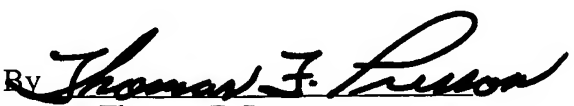
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
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